

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks and the above amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action of September 26, 2005 are earnestly solicited.

Claims 2 and 17 have been amended to clarify Applicants' invention. Claims 2, 4—13 and 15—20 remain pending in the application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 6—8, 13 and 15—16, and 17—20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schroeder et al. (U.S. 6,296,301) in view of DE 198 58 903 A2. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Schroeder et al. teaches a body having inner and outer body panels forming a cavity therebetween which is filled by a fiber or fibers which, in combination with resin (in fiber or powder form), becomes integral with the inner and outer panels when heat is applied. Hence, as with DE '903, Schroeder et al. does not teach or suggest "a generally tubular rigid body having an outer perimeter parallel to and in abutting engagement with an inner perimeter of the first tubular frame member" and "at least one rib...in abutting engagement with the tubular rigid body," as called for in independent Claim 2, or "a rigid tube having an outer perimeter substantially mating and in abutting engagement with an inner perimeter of a tubular portion of the first frame member and a reinforcement structure spanning an interior void of, and in abutting engagement with, the rigid tube" as called for in independent claim 17.

Therefore claim 2, and its dependent claims 6—8, 13, and 15—16, along with

claim 17 and its dependent claims 18—20 are believed patentable over Schroeder et al. and DE '903, taken alone or in combination.

Claims 4—5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schroeder et al., as modified by DE '903, and as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Aloe et al. (U.S. 6,047,988). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's additional remarks thereover, claims 4 and 5 are believed allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 2, from which claims 4 and 5 depend.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schroeder et al., as modified by DE '903, and is applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Benedyk (U.S. 5,458,393). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's additional remarks thereover, claim 9 is believed allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 8 and 2, from which claim 9 depends.

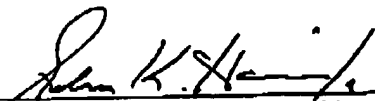
Claims 10—12 stand rejected under 35 U.S. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schroeder et al., as modified by DE '903, and as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Janotik (U.S. 5,209,541). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's additional remarks thereover, claims 10—12 are believed allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 8 and 2, from which claims 10—12 depend.

Claims 2 and 17 as amended herein, and claims 4—13, 15, 16 and 18—20, as previously presented, are believed to be in condition for allowance, early acknowledgment of which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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